

Letter from Gertrude McCurdy Hubbard to Alexander Graham Bell, January 27, 1877, with transcript

L. G.M.H. to A.G.B. 1877 Telephone Jan. 27, Sat. Washington. Glad not to be forced into exp. bet Wash. & Bos. Mr. N. could get approp. for lives & White House

..... We were glad not to be forced into the experiment between Washington and Boston. Mr. Hubbard felt that you were not ready and feared a failure. He believes that he could easily get an appropriation from Congress to put up lines connecting the Capitol with the White House and different Departments, if the instruments were ready. How I wish they were. The telephones have been brought back to my little table, and this morning Mr. Maynard's boy put up the wires from the third story, so that we are ready for exhibition. I went to the expense out of my private purse, of a volume of familiar quotations, as I thought "To be or not to be" was quite out of the question any longer. Mr. Hubbard has a second hearing this morning before the Committee on Cheap Telegraphy. If you help him carry the project of so many of his best years, years that have cost us all so much of separation and anxiety, I shall be — next to Mabel — the proudest and happiest woman I know.....